

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 038096

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, MARR, PFOR, NATO, IC, UK

SUBJECT: UK/ICELAND FISHERIES DISPUTE: LUNS' EFFORTS
IN LIGHT OF ANTICIPATED BREAK IN RELATIONS

REF: A) USNATO 819 B) REYKJAVIK 222

1. IN VIEW OF DISTRESSING NEWS THAT ICELAND NOW
"IRREVOCABLY" INTENDS TO BREAK DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH
THE UK FEBRUARY 18 OR 19, IT BECOMES ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT
THAT CHANNEL FOR TALKS BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES REPRESENTED
BY LUNS REMAIN OPEN AND IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE. THEREFORE,
IN ADDITION TO MAKING CLEAR TO GOI THE FACT THAT WE ARE
DISTRESSED BY THEIR INTENDED STEP, WE MUST ALSO MAKE CLEAR

THAT WE STILL PLACE GREAT RELIANCE UPON THE GOOD OFFICES
OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND TO URGE THEM TO CONTINUE TO
USE HIM TO THE FULLEST EXTENT. IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN OUR
EVEN-HANDED APPROACH TOWARDS BOTH DISPUTANTS, ACTION
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EMBASSIES ARE AUTHORIZED TO TELL APPROPRIATE HOST GOVERN-

MENT OFFICIALS THAT US CONTINUES TO PLACE GREAT HOPE IN THE EFFORTS BEING MADE BY LUNS TO FIND A WAY TO MOVE THE DISPUTE FROM THE IMPASSE INTO WHICH IT NOW SEEMS TO HAVE DEVELOPED. YOU SHOULD URGE THAT THEIR GOVERNMENTS BEND

EVERY EFFORT IN COOPERATING WITH THE LUNS' SUGGESTIONS WHICH ARE DESIGNED TO BRING THE TWO SIDES TOGETHER WITHOUT AFFORDING ADVANTAGE TO EITHER SIDE.

2. FOR REYKJAVIK: YOU SHOULD BEGIN YOUR TALK WITH THE PRIME MINISTER OR OTHER APPROPRIATE GOI OFFICIAL BY MAKING CLEAR THAT THE USG IS VERY DISTRESSED THAT THE GOI HAS FOUND IT NECESSARY TO TAKE THIS DRASTIC STEP WHICH CANNOT BUT MAKE A RESOLUTION OF THE SITUATION MORE DIFFICULT. YOU SHOULD ASK THE GOI TO RECONSIDER THE DECISION, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. IF, AS WE ARE SURE WILL HAPPEN, YOU ARE TOLD THAT THE DECISION IS INDEED IRREVOCABLE, TELL THE PM THAT IT IS OUR HOPE THAT THE GOI WILL COOPERATE FURTHER WITH LUNS BY AT LEAST COMING UP WITH SOME KIND OF COUNTERPROPOSAL WHICH LUNS CAN THEN USE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE BRITISH. YOU SHOULD NOTE, AS YOU HAVE DONE IN THE PAST, THAT FOR ICELAND TO MAINTAIN THE GOODWILL WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN GENERATED TOWARDS ITS CAUSE, IT MUST NOT APPEAR TO BE UNWILLING TO TALK IN A REASONABLE MANNER ABOUT THE ISSUES INVOLVED.

3. ALSO FOR REYKJAVIK: RE PARA 6 REFTTEL B, CONTINUE TO DISCOURAGE VERY STRONGLY IDEA BROACHED INITIALLY TO PM BY PP MINISTER THAT SMALL, HIGH LEVEL IP DELEGATION COME TO WASHINGTON.

4. FOR LONDON: YOU MAY ADD THAT THIS NEW DEVELOPMENT ONLY INCREASES OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE DANGER THE WIDER IMPLICATIONS OF THIS DISPUTE REPRESENT FOR OUR NATO BASE FACILITIES ON ICELAND, ANOTHER REASON THAT HMG'S COOPERATION WITH LUNS IS ESSENTIAL. INGERSOLL

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